



NEED FOR VALUE BASED EDUCATION

Prachi Nadda

Research Scholar, Department of Education, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.

ABSTRACT

A global crisis is facing the humanity at the dawn of the 21st century. Our current system of education has been based on the material and economic needs of an industrial model of society. The rate of change in the scientific, technical, economic, social and political arenas have been rapid and education has been challenged to keep up with the expansion of knowledge and societal needs. There is increased evidence of a self-centered approach to life and there has been loss of a sense of purpose and increased hopelessness amongst children and youth, with many failing to find fulfilling lives, an increase in addictions, violence and lawlessness. Value based education is the crucial key to solving this crisis. It has the capacity to bring about the change in attitudes needed to ensure peace and sustainable development. The present paper talks about the meaning, need and ways for imparting value based education in schools.

KEY WORDS: Value, Education, Need, Approaches.

INTRODUCTION

Sixteen years of the new millennium are already finished and we have grown older and wiser. A question that comes to mind is what is really important in life? Is it to achieve success at all costs? No, we all seek happiness, and unless success gives us happiness, it's not the ultimate goal in life. Thus values in education are the virtues that make up a human being. By value based education we mean a process of inculcating moral, ethical, social and spiritual values among people. Value education is essential for every individual but it is most important for a child. It is because education plays a major role in building the character of a child. Education based on values acts as a tool which helps in differentiating between right and wrong and importance of failure, hard work and success. The greater the positivity in our values the greater will be the positivity in our actions. Thus by imparting value based education we can enable students stand for certain eternal values such as truth, honesty, love for fellowmen and preservation of family values. This leads to an all round development of the personality from mental to physical and spiritual and thus makes students better and more cultured human being.

NEED FOR VALUE BASED EDUCATION

Education is a continuous and creative process. Its aim is to develop the capacities latent in human nature and to coordinate their expression for the enrichment and progress of the society by equipping children with spiritual, moral and material knowledge. But today the primary focus of education is on providing material knowledge. As a result of this education today is threatened by two challenges namely: a challenge that education is subject to market. Meaning that present day education system offers very few choices to students who have diverse interests. If one wants to learn classical language at a higher level there are very few institutions in the country. On the other hand, the number of engineering and management colleges in the country is increasing day by day. This shows that there is a greater emphasis on certain kinds of knowledge which is associated with money making jobs. Secondly the challenge that education is a search for efficiency and not the training of the integral person. This implies that modern day education system churns out students who are highly qualified but are lacking in moral values.

As a consequence of this the sole aim of students is limited to getting a job. This is leading to ugly competition, individualistic life style and an increase in greed and violence, resulting in overall degeneration of values. Further the market driven education system is resulting in the lop-sided development of the children focusing excessively on cognitive development and ignoring the affective domain. Due to this the youth of today knows how to earn quick money, knowledge about latest technological developments, smart phones, cars to latest online shopping websites but hardly knows about respecting elders, community participation, being patient, honest and living a happy life and a content life.

APPROACH TO VALUE BASED EDUCATION

Today most schools in India include value education as a subject through school education. While value education is important for children in schools the real aspect is how these values are taught by the teachers. Pressure of finishing the syllabus and overpowering run for high paying jobs is making the task more difficult. Moreover values cannot be taught as ideal concepts. In this context, the UNESCO document "Learning: The Treasure Within", known as Delors Report (1996), has taken a critical look at the total educational scenario and has given a vision for the twenty first century education based upon the following four principles of learning: 'learning to know,' 'learning to do', 'learning to be', and 'learn-

ing to live together'. Thus, teachers have to look for new dynamic ways of teaching to help students have value based education. Values are abstract which can be approached in a very concrete way through storytelling and drama enacting. Thus the teachers should make use of stories which help in creating social awareness and building emotional vocabulary. Storytelling and dramatization has a very strong emotional aspect because students experience a little of what the characters in the story are experiencing. Through telling a range of stories the teacher can help children to think about and recognize emotions in a safe and appropriate way. The stories can be based on specific themes related to syllabus or many overlapping themes like friendship, cooperation, honesty, environment conservation, disability, relationship with parents etc... Teachers, then can initiate the discussion in different stages after the completion of certain parts of the story. Discussion makes the students think. This helps the students in judging what is right and what is wrong and thus prepares them for future realities of life.

Besides this even parents and the society outside have a role to play in developing the value system of students. Generally the children imitate the behaviour of parents. If parents themselves demonstrate ideal values then child will automatically acquire those values. Thus teachers must strive to create a bonding between school and home. Parents and teachers have to work hand in hand to create an environment of encouragement, love and care so that every student grows up to become an ideal member of the society.

CONCLUSION

The main reason for all the ills of the present day society is meaninglessness of education. The need of the hour is not routine education but a meaningful education conforming to the requirements of the present day society. Today's education system lays emphasis only on material aspects of life which is not the ultimate aim of education. Schools, colleges and universities although tending more and more focus on market-oriented and measureable performance, should also remain aware of their fundamental and cultural vocation and responsibility. The teachers should help in developing not only the mental capabilities of students but also develop major attributes of well balanced, happy and contributive personality. Value based education will be successful when students realize the value of persons, irrespective of their qualifications, their position, or their possession. This will not only lead to academic excellence but also unfold student's inner personality.

REFERENCES

1. Awasthi, D. (2014). Value based Education is the only solution to the problem of Crisis of Moral Values among the youth of India. Retrieved from: worldwidejournals.com/gra/file.php?vol=september_2014_1411110022_81.pdf.
2. Gandhi, J. (2005). Experiences and Innovations: Value Education in City Montessori School, Lucknow. Retrieved from: www.ncert.nic.in/publication/journal/pdf_file/value_education/value_edu_2005pdf.
3. Jindal, J. (2013). Value Based Education_ Need of the day. Retrieved from: www.ermnt.net/docs/paper/volume_2/issue9_september2013/V2N9_114.pdf.
4. Karunakaran, G. (2015). Why we must focus on value-based education. Retrieved from: <http://www.financialexpress.com/jobs/why-we-must-focus-on-value-based-education/40450/>
5. UNESCO. (1996). Learning: The Treasure Within (Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first-Century). Paris, France: Author.